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WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT
HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT AND
WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspectors of
the Districts

for the year

1953

**THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN, HATFIELD RURAL
AND WELWYN RURAL DISTRICTS**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your districts for the year 1953. While dealing mainly with the environmental health services, for which the Councils are directly responsible, a brief account of the related personal health services of the County Council have as usual been included.

The health of the Districts during the year under review continued to be good, the exceptionally mild weather during the last quarter resulting in less sickness due to respiratory infections than usual. The health statistics for each district compare favourably with the corresponding figures for the country as a whole, and for previous years. Once again the complete absence of maternal deaths throughout the districts is worthy of comment, reflecting credit upon the doctors and midwifery services.

No outbreaks of major infectious disease occurred although measles was widespread among young children in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield during the first six months, and whooping cough notifications rose towards the end of the year. Scarlet fever and other streptococcal infections have continued to be few and usually transient mild cases. The record of freedom from diphtheria has been broken by one notification in Hatfield, although the diagnosis was established on early clinical examination and could not be confirmed bacteriologically. Once again I must record my appreciation of the efforts of parents, doctors, nurses and teachers in ensuring that a satisfactory level of primary immunisation of infants against diphtheria is maintained. Whooping cough protection is rapidly gaining in popularity, but it is early to expect any significant reduction in the attack rate for the child population as a whole.

Good progress was maintained in the laying of the new trunk sewer along the Mimram valley to take the sewage from Welwyn Garden City to the Ryemeads Disposal Works, and the trunk sewer to take the effluent from the southern part of Hatfield to the Colne Valley Disposal Works at Rickmansworth was commenced in September. When completed these two schemes will overcome the present serious overloading of the local disposal works. In Welwyn participation in the major regional disposal scheme is inevitable, although here the need to join the Mimram trunk sewer is not so pressing, the local works being of adequate capacity to treat the present volume of sewage.

New Town development in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield gained in momentum during the year, the well-planned layout of the new roads, attractive elevations and diversity of the houses reflecting much credit upon the staffs of the Development Corporations. When visiting these newly established homes, I am impressed by the enthusiasm and pride of the family in their new environment, and also the high standards of furnishing, equipment and general home management rapidly displayed. While floor area of the rooms is often restricted by economic considerations, it is to be hoped that the present fashion for small highly-placed bedroom windows will pass in favour of larger and better designed windows which can achieve more than minimum standards of lighting and ventilation without unduly sacrificing privacy. In Hatfield and Welwyn a start has been made in dealing with unsatisfactory housing accommodation. Progress is long overdue and further schemes will undoubtedly be a major task of both Councils during the next few years, facilitated by new legislation.

In our endeavours to ensure clean food, I have received much encouragement from the active co-operation of the managements and staffs of retail food shops, and industrial and school canteens during the year. The lecture demonstrations for the food handlers must be short, varied, and given as frequently as possible to effectively press home the dangers to health, and simple practical rules of cleanliness. Much is achieved by the routine inspection of all food premises by the Sanitary Inspectors. It is to be hoped that the proposed new legislation will give further power to ensure improvement in unsatisfactory premises.

In conclusion, I must again express my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance given by the Clerks and other Officers of the respective District Councils, and especially the Sanitary Inspectors who have helped me by carrying out much detailed work in addition to their routine duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1954.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

*Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the
Sanitary Inspector for 1953.*

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

M. STOCKDALE, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

F. W. T. FOWLER, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Rodent Operative:

E. J. THOMAS.

Clerks:

Mrs. E. R. GEORGE.

A. A. W. CALLABY.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SECTION

Section A.—STATISTIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	4,310
Population (mid-year 1953, as estimated by the Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	...	20,730
Number of inhabited houses, 31st December, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	6,208
Rateable value of the District, 31st December, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	£195,076
Net value of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£788

A modern industrial and residential town now in the final stage of development as the second planned Garden City in Hertfordshire. The ideals of the original planners are now displayed to best advantage in the older parts of the town where the many open spaces, gardens and woodland vistas are reaching maturity. Within this setting the well-laid-out homes, fine schools and facilities for the widest range of social activities and interests provide a healthful and convenient way of life for all ages and sections of the community at work and leisure. The post-war building programmes of the Council and Development Corporation continue the early tradition while incorporating recent progress in design and construction. There are large factories engaged in the manufacture of foodstuffs, grinding wheels, radio sets, pharmaceutical products, heavy engineering, plastics, and cigarettes, with many smaller firms engaged in a wide variety of manufacture.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

			Male	Female	Total
Deaths from all causes	...	...	77	72	149
Live Births	Legitimate	...	164	142	306
	Illegitimate	...	4	7	11
Still Births	Legitimate	...	5	4	9
	Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Deaths of infants	Legitimate	...	2	2	4
under one year	Illegitimate	...	—	—	—

Infant Mortality

Four infants under one year died during the year. On careful consideration of the circumstances in each case, two of these deaths may be classed as unavoidable being due to congenital defects, while the other two are in the class of preventable causes.

Female	...	20 minutes	...	...	Cerebral haemorrhage
Male	...	30 minutes	...	...	Cerebral haemorrhage
Male	...	1 day	...	...	Congenital defects
Male	...	6 days	...	...	Congenital defects

Maternal Mortality

Once again it is gratifying to report that there were no maternal deaths during the year. This reflects the high standard of hospital and domiciliary midwifery in the town.

Comparison of Annual Rates

The following table shows the Death Rates, Birth Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1946.

Year	Death Rate per 1,000 pop.	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
1946	6.4 (11.5)*	24.2 (19.1)*	28.1 (43)*
1947	7.5 (12)	22.1 (20.5)	19.3 (41)
1948	6.6 (10.8)	21.0 (17.9)	23.7 (34)
1949	6.8 (11.7)	17.4 (16.7)	12.6 (32)
1950	6.8 (11.6)	14.3 (15.8)	19.1 (30)
1951	9.0 (12.5)	17.4 (15.5)	37.5 (30)
1952	6.5 (11.3)	16.9 (15.3)	15.3 (27.6)
1953	7.1 (11.4)	14.9 (15.5)	12.6 (26.8)

* The relative figures for England and Wales.

Deaths

No adverse factors significantly affected the mortality rate for the year. The slight rise in the general death rate is due to an increase in deaths from cancer. The cold and wet Spring had no effect on the mortality returns.

The following table gives an analysis of all deaths which have occurred—or are required to be treated as having occurred in the town during the year.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	—	1
Cancer, malignant disease	21	14	35
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	7	11	18
Heart Diseases	18	22	40
Other circulatory diseases	4	8	12
Pneumonia	3	—	3
Bronchitis & other respiratory diseases	9	4	12
Nephritis	1	—	1
Gastric Ulcer	2	—	2
Road Traffic and other Accidents ...	5	2	7
Diabetes	—	2	2
Suicide	1	—	1
Other defined causes	6	9	15
	77	72	149

Analysis of the deaths from cancer according to site of origin.

Respiratory tract	5
Alimentary tract and liver	18
Breast	3
Others	9

Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The County Council is responsible for the administration of the personal health services in the town, embracing maternity and child welfare, school health service, health visiting, home nursing and the home help service. Reference should be made to the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer for 1953, for detailed information on the development of these services.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT SERVICES

Community Centre, Mill Green Road

Ante & Post Natal sessions	1st and 3rd Fridays, 2—3 p.m.
Toddlers' sessions	1st and 3rd Fridays, 3—4 p.m.
Infant Welfare sessions ...	Monday, 2—4 p.m.; Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.; Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.
School Health sessions ...	Minor Ailment Clinic, daily 9 a.m. (Doctor attends Monday, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon)
Dental and Orthodontic sessions	Dental, Tuesday, a.m. and p.m. Dental, Wednesday, a.m. and p.m. (A special Orthodontic session held Monday, p.m., Monthly)
Ophthalmic sessions ...	1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings, 9 a.m.—12 noon.
Speech Therapy sessions ...	Friday, 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m. 2.30 p.m.— 4.30 p.m.

Lawrence Hall, Applecroft Road

Infant Welfare sessions ...	Wednesday, 2 p.m.—4 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m.—4 p.m. (Doctors' session.)
Child Development sessions	1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.
Orthoptic sessions	Friday, 2 p.m.—4.30 p.m.

Midwifery Services

The Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital at Peartree continues to maintain a very high standard of midwifery in the town, the hospital being recognised as a Part II Training Centre for midwives.

Specialist advice and treatment are readily available at the hospital for difficult or complicated maternity cases, and regular ante-natal and post-natal sessions are held both for women who are subsequently entering hospital for delivery, and those who are referred back to their own doctor for continued ante-natal supervision before delivery. A full-time midwife is employed by the Hertfordshire County Council for the town, and the weekly ante-natal and post-natal session is held at the Community Centre for the supervision of domiciliary midwifery cases. In addition to these facilities the Applecroft Nursing Home on the west side of the town is also mainly engaged with maternity cases.

Nursing Services

The nursing staff at present comprises three Health Visitors, three Home Nurses, and one Midwife under the control of the Divisional Nursing Officer. In addition to their clinic duties, the nurses provide a complete Health Visiting and Domiciliary Nursing Service for general and maternity cases. Certain nurses undertake work in school, at hygiene inspections or routine medical examinations. Valuable assistance is rendered at the clinics by teams of voluntary helpers who keep the registers, weigh and measure the children, sell proprietary infant foods and vitamin preparations, and generally release the doctor and health visitor for more specialised duties.

Medical Loan Depot

A Medical Loan depot is established at Trevelyan House, Church Road, Welwyn Garden City, adjacent to the Cottage Hospital, run by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and is open from 8—9 p.m. on weekdays, for the loan of many items of medical equipment which are needed in the nursing of persons in their own homes.

School Health Service

The medical inspection of children in maintained schools in the prescribed age groups, namely 5, 11 and 14 years, and in addition the 8-year-old group was completed during the year. Reference should be made to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer on the School Health Service, 1953, for detailed information.

The school dentist has continued his work based on the clinic in the Community Centre Annexe, while the dental practitioners throughout the town have co-operated well in undertaking prompt treatment of children referred to them by the School Medical Officers.

Immunisation and Vaccination

It is now agreed policy to press for primary vaccination against smallpox of all children under the age of two years, and at ages above this when the child has been, or is likely to be exposed to smallpox. In a healthy infant primary vaccination is best done at the age of three or four months.

The need for diphtheria immunisation continues to be as great as ever although the complete absence of notification of the disease may tend to dull parents into a false sense of security. It is gratifying to record however that parents still seem aware of their responsibilities in this matter and returns from medical practitioners and clinics show that the general level of acceptance is satisfactory.

Following improvement in the preparation of proprietary vaccines for the prevention of whooping cough, immunisation against this disease is now available through the family practitioners or clinics for infants and young children up to five years of age. Although only introduced the previous year the number of children receiving protection is increasing, now that parents realise the value of this protective measure in avoiding such a distressing and common ailment.

Home Help Service

The demands on this service have remained steady throughout the year, approximately 40—50 households receiving domestic help each week.

The local organiser is Mrs. E. R. Dawson, Lawrence Hall, Applecroft Road, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 4144). The Home Help Service is one of the ways in which the present heavy burden on hospital accommodation can be relieved, and there is a close link between the service and the domiciliary midwifery and nursing services.

Mental Health Services

The service is administered from County Hall for the County as a whole. The duly Authorised Officer under the Mental Treatment Acts for this area is Mr. C. A. English, 3 Wellfield Road, Hatfield (Telephone: Hatfield 2239) who is also Divisional Welfare Officer. Several mentally defective children attend the Occupation Centres at St. Albans and Hertford.

Day Nurseries

There is one Day Nursery in Welwyn Garden City situated in Woodhall Lane; Matron, Mrs. B. Squires (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 3692) with 40 places.

Priorities for admission: —

- (1) Children of Widows or Widowers.
- (2) Children of Unmarried Mothers.
- (3) Children of deserted Wives or Husbands.
- (4) Children of Parents if in Prison.
- (5) Children of Parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement, i.e., mental illness, tuberculosis, etc.
- (6) Temporary Cases, e.g. Mother's illness or confinement.
- (7) Children recommended by Doctor or Health Visitor for temporary help, i.e. children from problem families, emotional difficulties and bad housing conditions.

Ambulance Service

Two ambulances of the County Ambulance Brigade are attached to the Welwyn Garden City Station and, operating in conjunction with the Fire Brigade, maintain a 24-hour cover and deal with approximately 2,000 calls annually. Both vehicles are equipped with short-wave radio to conform with the County's Radio Control Scheme and can be mobilised by transmitter stations in St. Albans and Hertford.

Training of ambulance personnel in first-aid work is conducted at station level as a part of the conditions of a man's employment in the service, but in addition certain members follow the St. John Ambulance organisation in a voluntary capacity.

The Hospital Car Service, under the direction of the County Council, continues to play an important part in the transport of hospital treatment cases.

Old People's Welfare

Increasing interest is being taken in the welfare of old people in the town. The Women's Voluntary Service assists the activities of the Old People's Club at the Community Centre each Monday afternoon in arranging home visits, special trips for the elderly and the mobile meals service. The Churches, Rotary Club and other organisations also give valuable assistance in this work. There is a close link between the voluntary workers and the Health Visitors and Home Nurses in this sphere.

Hospital Facilities

The hospital and specialist services for the town are administered by the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. In addition to the Cottage Hospital with 17—20 beds, and the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital at Peartree, the town is served by the several large hospitals in the surrounding towns, where full specialist and diagnostic facilities are readily available.

Cases of infectious disease in need of hospital treatment or isolation are usually transferred in the first place to St. Stephen's Ward of the St. Albans City Hospital. The Hertford Isolation Hospital and Spittlesea Hospital, Luton, are also available for these cases.

General Medical Services

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is the body responsible for providing the general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. The Clerk of the Council (Mr. A. E. Short) has his offices at 14 Fore Street, Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 2309).

Family Planning

There is an active branch of the Family Planning Association in Welwyn Garden City, holding clinics at the Community Centre, Mill Green Road. Sessions are held on Mondays, 6.30—8.30 p.m., and Thursdays, 1.30—3 p.m., for advice on birth control, and on Fridays, 9.30—11.30 a.m., for advice on childlessness. The sub-fertility clinic on Friday is by appointment only and patients must be referred through their own private doctor. The Family Planning Association is a voluntary body and small charges are made to the patients to cover expenses. Enquiries are welcomed and should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. L. L. Bowmer, 14 Beehive Lane, Welwyn Garden City.

Marriage Guidance

The Welwyn Garden City Marriage Guidance Council, Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. M. Harrison, 28 Elmwood, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 3507) has continued to extend its activities throughout the year, both in an educational sphere to young married couples, and in an advisory capacity by an experienced group of counsellors to whom cases of special difficulty are referred for expert advice and guidance.

Mortuary

Modern mortuary premises are maintained by the Urban District Council, adjacent to the Council Offices.

Laboratory

The laboratory at Hill End undertakes the examination of milk and other specimens required by medical practitioners and the Public Health Department. Larger scale facilities on an epidemiological basis, and for the examination of ice cream samples are available at the Regional Public Health Laboratory, Luton. During the year 20 specimens were submitted for examination, and 84 milk samples. Supplies of diphtheria immunisation material, diphtheria anti-toxin and measles globulins are available to practitioners in the town on request, although the demand for the last two items has been negligible. The Health Department is also used as a centre to which practitioners may bring in specimens or materials requiring examination.

Section C.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	37
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	166
Measles	...	...	...	549
Pneumonia	...	...	...	11
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	1
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	2

Measles

Notifications were high during the first six months of the year being scattered throughout all districts of the town, mainly mild in character.

Scarlet Fever

No definite outbreaks of streptococcal infection occurred throughout the town, the notifications relating to sporadic mild cases. The home was visited in each case by the Sanitary Inspector in order to ensure that essential practical precautions against the spread of infection were being taken, and to offer terminal disinfection where necessary at the end of the infective period.

Whooping Cough

The number of cases rose during the latter half of the year, the ages of the children affected being:—

0—1 years 8. 1—3 years 37. 3—5 years 47. Over 5 years 74.

Active immunisation is pressed especially for infants and young children up to five years of age, and provides fairly effective protection or drastically modifies the attack. It is however unlikely that any marked reduction in the total cases will occur until this protective procedure has been more widely adopted so that the general level of immunity of infants and pre-school children against this disease is maintained at a high level.

Poliomyelitis

Two cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year. The first was a boy of 11 years recently arrived in the town from Northern Ireland who developed facial palsy with weakness of the muscles of

the thigh and back. The patient was promptly transferred to St. Stephen's Ward, St. Albans City Hospital as soon as the diagnosis was established, where he subsequently made a good recovery with little residual muscle weakness. The boy was probably infected in Northern Ireland prior to arrival in this country, and following close supervision of the family and contacts, no further cases were detected.

The second was a non-paralytic case early in December, when a youth of 18 years living at an hostel in the town became ill and was admitted to St. Stephen's Ward, St. Albans City Hospital, as a suspected case. The diagnosis was established upon clinical and laboratory findings, and he rapidly recovered without developing paralysis. Prompt measures were taken to ensure supervision of the contacts at the hostel, and no further cases were reported. Here again the source of infection was not disclosed by enquiry.

Food Poisoning

The supervision of industrial canteens, cafes, restaurants, food manufacturing premises and school canteens in the town has been carefully maintained throughout the year. Only one person with salmonella infection giving rise to gastro enteritis, required investigation.

My thanks are due to the managements and staffs of many industrial firms and catering establishments in the town for their active encouragement and assistance in arranging Clean Food lectures for members of their staffs. A short course held in May at Peartree School was well attended, and in addition several firms granted special facilities for their staff to attend Clean Food lectures at their premises.

Diphtheria

It is very gratifying to be able to report a year of complete absence from diphtheria in this town. It is now over six years since a case of diphtheria occurred owing to the satisfactory level of immunisation maintained in the infants and young children.

Tuberculosis

The confidential register of notifications is still kept by the Medical Officer of Health, the names being frequently checked with records held by the Chest Physician and the County Medical Officer. The statistics for the year show a slight rise in the total number of tuberculous persons in the town, 18 of the 47 cases added to the register during the year being transfers into the town. This figure compares favourably with transfers into neighbouring urban and rural districts mainly from the London area.

	Male		Female		Total
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	
On register at 31st December, 1952	82	15	61	6	164
Removals from register during the year	12	4	7	—	23
Added to register during the year	19	—	23	5	47
Cases on the register at 31st December, 1953	89	11	77	11	188

The Tuberculosis Clinic at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans, undertakes the diagnosis and supervision of all cases in this area, the Chest Physician attending on Monday mornings for the examination of patients from Welwyn Garden City. Following diagnosis a home visit is made by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor attached to the Chest Clinic and a report is sent to the Medical Officer of Health who is thus aware of the home circumstances of each case brought on to the register. In order to ensure full consideration of the special housing needs of tuberculous persons, each case is specially revised where necessary by the Housing Committee upon a detailed report from the Medical Officer of Health.

The accommodation for hospital and sanatorium treatment for active tuberculosis cases compares very favourably with most areas so that the number of active cases remaining in their homes in a highly infective state, in close contact with other members of the family and young children is kept to the minimum. In this there is close co-operation between the chest physicians, hospital almoners, Medical Officer of Health and the Housing Department.

B.C.G. vaccination of infants and children in close contact with open cases of tuberculosis in the home is now an established procedure which enhances the resistance of the children to tuberculosis. Introduced in 1951 it will however be several years before the full effect of this simple practical preventive measure on the attack rate is apparent.

During the year facilities have been granted for the Tuberculosis Health Visitor to attend at the Lawrence Hall each month in order to facilitate the arrangements for supervision of home contacts and B.C.G. vaccination by individual appointment.

Housing

High priority is given to cases of tuberculosis and major physical handicaps especially where the upbringing of children is in jeopardy. While there are still many families who apply for special priority because of the practical emotional difficulties resulting from minor degrees of overcrowding the number of such cases is diminishing with the gradual improvement in the overall housing position.

The great progress made in the provision of new accommodation by the Council is shown by the following figures given by the Housing Manager.

	31st December, 1953 (including 150 temporary bungalows, plus 26 cottages)
(a) Number of houses owned by the Council	2103
(b) Number of families housed in requisitioned accommodation	Nil
(c) Number of families housed in temporary huts	Nil
(d) Number of families housed during the year	116
(e) Number of applicants on the housing lists:	
Priority grades	361
Non-Priority grades	1095

The general layout, design and construction of the new houses on the Council's housing scheme on the east side of the town are of the highest standard and the good progress made during the year is shown by the increase in the number of families rehoused in new accommodation. All families were transferred from the temporary huts at Lemsford Lane during the year.

Great progress was achieved by the New Town Development Corporation during the year, a total of 866 houses being completed with a further 510 under construction. With development in the North-East part of the town nearing completion, progress is now most apparent South of Cole Green Lane, including the establishment of the Ludwick Social and Shopping Sub-Centre, and widespread preliminary development work.

Acknowledgement is due to the Housing Department of the Development Corporation who have given considerable assistance by arranging transfers within their properties upon medical recommendations.

Section D.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

The Water Undertaking is owned and operated by the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council.

The supply is obtained from deep bore holes in the chalk formation in the valley of the River Mimram, where the Pumping Station is situated. The electrification of the Pumping Station was completed last year.

Six electrically driven pumps raise the water from six bore-holes to reservoirs on the Sherrardswood ridge, which provide a storage capacity of 3,000,000 gallons for the town's supply.

From the same station the Council pump water in bulk to the towers and reservoirs of the Welwyn Rural District Council and part of the Rural District of Hertford.

The public supply, subsequent to being raised from the bore-holes is submitted to no other treatment other than chlorination and storage in the reservoirs.

During 1953 the water supply of the town has been entirely satisfactory, both in quantity and in chemical and bacteriological quality. The supply is chlorinated at the Pumping Station.

Water samples are obtained at regular intervals, and a total of 21 samples were obtained during the year and submitted for examination; all were found to be of satisfactory quality.

Details of Type of Supply

Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the population supplied from public mains at June 30th, 1953, are as follows:—

				Dwelling-houses	Population
(a)	Direct to houses	...	...	5842	20695
(b)	By means of stand-pipes	...	...	5	15

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The town is sewered on the separate system. Surface water is drained to the valleys of the Lea and Mimram Rivers which bound the district on the south and north respectively.

Foul water is gathered by tributary sewers to the main trunk sewer which traverses the town from south-west to north-east, and discharges into sewage disposal works on the north-east corner of the district.

Sewage from the southern part of the district is pumped to the gravity sewers.

The system of disposal consists of detritus tanks, screens, continuous-flow settlement tanks, dosing tanks and percolating filters fed through revolving sprinklers. The effluent discharges into the River Mimram first passing through three lagoons. The sludge is banked on to adjacent land and ploughed in.

Work on the Mimram Valley sewer, which is a branch of the Middle Lea Regional Scheme, is progressing satisfactorily, and it is hoped that it will be completed in 1955, and the whole of the foul sewerage of the town will then be taken to Ryemeads sewage works by gravity. The town's sewage disposal works would then be redundant.

Rivers and Streams

A portion of the River Mimram, half mile (approximately) runs through the northern portion of the district, and a portion of the Lea, half mile (approximately) runs through the south portion of the district.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The closet accommodation is on the water carriage system with the exception of those cottages (rural in character) on the outskirts of the district, where the pail system is in operation, and where the occupants arrange to bury the contents in their gardens.

(a) Number of pail closets abolished; water closets installed and connected to a water carriage system during recent years	...	...	...	40
(b) Approximate number of pail closets remaining at the end of 1953	...	...	...	43

Of the 43 houses stated as having pail closets, 18 are the subject of demolition orders. An increase in the number of pail closets was brought about by the Rural areas transferred to the town in October, 1951.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) *Refuse Collection and Disposal.* All premises have metal dustbins for the deposit of refuse. The prohibition of the sale of galvanised iron dustbins for the reception of refuse which was caused by rearmament has now been lifted. The provision of galvanised iron dustbins is therefore again enforced under Section 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council Act 1932. Refuse is collected weekly in covered motor vehicles by the Council's Refuse Collection Service.

Domestic refuse is tipped at a dump near Stanborough Lane and is disposed of by controlled tipping. Such rats as may gain access to the dump or its surroundings are destroyed by the Public Health Department.

(b) *Street Cleansing.* This is controlled by the Surveyor.

(c) *Gully Cleansing.* All gullies for which the Council are responsible are regularly emptied and flushed by Contract Gully Cleansing, Ltd., who are employed by the Council under contract for this purpose.

(d) *Dustbins.* The Council's Refuse Collection Service notifies the Public Health Department of any defective dustbins they find. One hundred and ninety-three new bins were provided during the year on owners being requested to do so. Details are as follows:—

Urban District Council	...	...	...	...	91
Development Corporation	...	...	...	...	69
Private Owners	...	...	...	...	23
Other Owners	...	...	...	...	10

5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

(a) Number and nature of Inspections made during the year:—

Inspections of Factories (with mechanical power)	...	116
„ Factories (without mechanical power)	...	10
„ Workplaces	...	13
„ Dairies	...	16
„ Licensed Premises	...	14
„ Infested Premises (rats and mice)	...	4310
„ Shops	...	174
„ re Insect Pests (excluding bed bugs)	...	243
„ of Dwellings (not otherwise included)	...	488
„ Schools	...	33
Number of Premises treated for Bed Bugs	...	5
Inspections of Dwelling-houses under H.A., 1936	...	32

Special Inspections or Visits made re:—

Drainage	...	149
Infectious Disease	...	126
Smoke observations	...	54
Water Supply	...	34
Milk Samples	...	43
Dustbins	...	333
Accumulations of refuse	...	80
Council Property	...	46
Miscellaneous Visits	...	238

(b) (1) Number of Informal Notices served ... 114
 (2) Number of Statutory Notices served ... 0

(c) (1) Number of Informal Notices:—
 99 were complied with and 15 were outstanding.

6. (a) SHOPS

There are forty-one shops in the district. One hundred and seventy-four inspections of shops have been made.

Plans of new shops are examined by the Health Department before they are approved, and representations made to the proposers where it appears that either the plans do not conform with the Public Health Act, 1936, or that structural alterations would be necessary on the shop becoming occupied, because the shops did not comply with the Shops Act, 1950, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The following action, under the Public Health Act, 1936, the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, or the Shops Act, 1950, was taken:—

	Defects found	Defects remedied
Want of Cleanliness	23	20
Sanitary Defects	15	12
Other Nuisances or Defects	25	18

Twenty-two Informal Notices were served of which eighteen were complied with.

(b) OFFICES

All offices in the district are of modern construction and have a high standard of fitness. Separate sanitary conveniences are provided in all cases where both sexes are employed. The conditions found regarding ventilation, lighting and cleanliness are satisfactory. Basement rooms are not used for clerical employment. All buildings in the town with few exceptions are constructed without basements.

7. CAMPING SITES

There are five occupied caravans which are being controlled under Town Planning procedure.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT

Smoke observations made	55
Smoke nuisances	2

In each case where smoke was produced so as to be a nuisance, the factories concerned took steps to avoid repetition of the nuisance.

It appears that the atmosphere of Welwyn Garden City is comparatively unpolluted. This may be attributed to the high consumption of electricity. Practically every house is wired for electricity, and domestic consumption in the town is believed to be higher than anywhere else in the country. Factories are wired for electricity, which in all instances provides the motive power. Steam boilers or furnaces are used for heating or trade processes only.

9. SWIMMING POOL

(1) The Lea Valley Open Air Swimming Pool is administered by the Council.

The considerable improvements carried out by the Council prior to the 1950 season, which included the provision of a continuous

system of chlorination and filtration, have continued to prove their worth. In spite of heavy bathing loads the pool water was found to be clear and bright and of satisfactory cleanliness, whereas previously its cleanliness had been a matter of concern from the public health aspect.

Frequent tests are made with the Lovibond Comparator to ascertain if the amount of free chlorine present is adequate; this test gives an immediate result.

(2) During the year four samples of water were obtained from the pool and were submitted for bacteriological examination. The laboratory reports indicated that the four samples were of a high standard.

10. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Five houses were found to be infested during the year. The infestation were cleared by the application of Zaldecide-D.D.T. With the use of insecticides containing D.D.T., the bed bug should become extinct.

Section E.—HOUSING

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	212
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	361
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 1932	6
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	25
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	134

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notice:—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	128
--	-----

3. No action was taken under Statutory Powers during the year.

Section F.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK

(1) *General*

There are five milk distributors registered, of whom only two occupy premises in the area. The major part of the milk sold is produced outside the district.

(b) It is estimated that over ninety per cent of the milk sold in the Garden City has been pasteurised before being retailed. Tests of milk in that category obtained from local retailers and examined by the Phosphatase test resulted in eighty-one out of eighty-four samples passing the test. This indicates that eighty-one samples were virtually free from pathogenic organisms.

(c) The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 3) Order, 1953, provided that after December 31st, 1953, all milk sold in the town must be Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested or Sterilised, or until September 30th, 1954, Accredited milk from a single herd.

(2) Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations

During the year sixteen inspections were made at dairies. Twelve infringements of the Milk and Dairies Regulations were found. Informal notices were sent to the dealers concerned and complied with by them.

(3) Biological Examinations

The County Council obtains samples from Tuberculin Tested, Accredited and non-designated herds and has them examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus. No report of the presence of either of these organisms has been received during the year.

(4) Milk Sampling

Samples of milk are regularly obtained at least once a month. The majority are taken on the public highway from retailers who are delivering milk to the public. This practice enables the cleanliness of milk as delivered to the public to be ascertained. One hundred and ten samples were obtained and delivered to Hill End Hospital for bacteriological examination. The results which follow indicate that the Garden City milk supply is clean and safe.

Tuberculin Tested Milk

Of the fifteen samples obtained, three failed to pass the Methylene Blue test.

Pasteurised Milk

Fifty-five samples were obtained and submitted for examination by the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. Of the fifty-five Methylene Blue tests carried out, fifty-three were satisfactory. Of the fifty-five Phosphatase tests carried out, results showed that three samples failed to pass this test.

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk

Twenty-nine samples were obtained and submitted for examination by the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. Twenty-eight samples passed both tests and one sample failed to pass the Methylene Blue test.

Sterilised Milk

Of the eleven samples obtained, one failed to pass the Turbidity test.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no slaughter-houses in the district. The system of inspection operated in the district consists of the inspection of premises selling meat and other foods or products. Additional detail is given under the headings Milk Supply, Ice Cream and Clean Food.

A number of meat and other perishable food vendors' vehicles come into the district: these are inspected at intervals.

(c) CONDEMNATION OF FOOD

The food listed was inspected and condemned during the year; the total being 3,470 pounds.

	lbs.
(1) <i>Uncooked Food</i>	
Meat	608
Fish	102
(2) <i>Food in Tins</i>	
Vegetables	537
Meat	345
Fruit	1411
Milk	68
(3) <i>Miscellaneous Food</i>	399

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of food are carried out at:—

- (1) Hill End Laboratory, Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, Herts.
- (2) Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.
- (3) Public Analyst, 20 Eastcheap, London, E.C.3.
- (4) Public Health Laboratory, Town Hall, Luton.

(d) ADULTERATION

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, regarding adulteration are administered by the County Council.

Eighteen samples of milk were obtained under Section 3 of the Act, and found to be genuine.

(e) CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

(1) The education of the individual employee in the great importance of clean food handling was carried a step further by a series of five lecture demonstrations illustrated by film strips. Of the sixty-seven persons attending, twenty-five completed the course and were awarded Certificates. In addition, a film strip with a recorded commentary on hygiene in the bakery was exhibited to the supervisory staff of a large bakery.

(2) *Propaganda*

Premises Inspected. The following inspections and visits have been made:—

Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Food manufacturing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
Mobile vehicles selling food (excluding ice cream vans)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Ice cream vans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Visits to examine food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Visits to procure samples of food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Visits to advise on the distribution of ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Informal Notices served, 28; complied with, 21.								

(f) ICE CREAM AND ICED LOLLIES

(1) *Ice Cream*

Routine sampling of ice cream has been continued on a similar basis as last year. Sixty-seven samples were obtained from twenty-four different retailers. Where an unsatisfactory result was obtained investigations were carried out at the retailers and further samples were procured where necessary.

Type of Ice Cream	Provisional Grade				Total
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		
	1	2	3	4	
Wrapped other than chocbars	7	5	1	3	16
Wrapped chocbars	13	1	2	—	16
Partly wrapped	6	1	—	—	7
Part of previously opened wrapped brick	8	2	—	—	10
Part of bulk supply	17	1	—	—	18
Total samples ...	51	10	3	3	67
Percentage results ...	76.12%	14.92%	4.48%	4.48%	

Conclusions

91.04% of the samples obtained were placed in Provisional Grades 1 or 2, reaching a satisfactory bacteriological standard.

Six samples, comprising 8.96% of the total were found to be of a poor bacteriological standard.

Two of the three samples placed in Provisional Grade 3 and the three samples placed in Provisional Grade 4 were of ice cream produced by one manufacturer in premises outside the Urban District. Apart from this make, ice cream sold in this district may be regarded as reaching a very satisfactory bacteriological standard.

(2) *Iced Lollies*

(a) *Fruit Lollies*

Fifteen samples of wrapped iced lollies were obtained and submitted to the coliform test by the Regional Public Health Laboratory at Luton. The following table summarises the results under the various producers:—

Producer	No. of Samples obtained		No. free from Coliforms	No. with Presumptive coli only
A	...	9	8	1
B	...	2	2	—
C	...	1	1	—
D	...	2	2	—
E	...	1	1	—
TOTALS:		15	14	1

(b) *Cream Lollies*

Twenty-one samples of “cream” or “milky” lollies were obtained and were similarly examined. All were wrapped in cellophane bags at the manufactory. In each case where a high Faecal coli count was found the matter was referred to the retailer for action, and where necessary stocks were voluntarily withdrawn from sale. The producer was also advised of the unsatisfactory nature of his product and co-operated with the staff of his local Public Health Department in tracing the source of the contamination.

Producer	No. of Samples obtained	No. free from Coliforms	No. with Presumptive coli only	No. containing both Presumptive and Faecal coli
A	2	—	1	1
D	8	1	3	4
F	7	2	2	3
G	1	—	—	1
H	3	—	1	2
21		3	7	11

(c) *Conclusions*

All fifteen samples of iced lollies were found to be free from Faecal coli; whereas eleven of the twenty-one samples of cream lollies contained Faecal coli. It appears, therefore, that whilst little danger of severe bacteriological contamination exists in plain fruit lollies, “cream” or “milky” lollies give more favourable conditions for bacteriological growth and are worthy of regular sampling by Public Health Departments.

Section G.—GENERAL, INCLUDING SUPERVISION OF FACTORIES AND RODENT CONTROL

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

Premises (1)				Inspections (2)	Number of Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES	with	Mechanical				
Power ... ..		... ..		116	12	0
FACTORIES	without	Mechanical				
Power ... ..		... ..		10	3	0
OTHER PREMISES	under the					
Act ... ..		... ..		33	0	0
Total ...				159	15	0

2. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which pro- secutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):				
Insufficient	8	8	0	0
Unsuitable or defective ...	34	31	0	0
Not separate for sexes ...	0	0	0	0
Total ...	42	39	Nil	Nil

3. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(a) The occupiers of two local factories distribute work to twenty-three out-workers in the town. These persons assemble or make up articles in their own homes.

In addition two local out-workers are employed by London firms. The outwork is carried on in clean and satisfactory premises. No cause for complaint has arisen during the year.

(b) *Factories—General Information*

All factories in the town are of modern construction and have been built during the past thirty years. Health conditions are generally satisfactory. Infringements are usually of a minor nature.

Plans for new factories or involving alteration of existing factories are submitted to the Public Health Department before they are approved.

The Council is empowered to reject the plans if they do not comply with sections 37, 43 or 59 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Where the plans submitted do not comply, amendments are informally negotiated with the proposers. If agreement is not secured within the statutory period or the statutory period is insufficient to allow negotiation, the plans are rejected. Where there is no legal authority to reject the plans, but the erection or alteration contained in the plans is likely to give rise to contraventions of the Factories Act, 1937, the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, this is pointed out to the proposers, and every endeavour made to secure prior compliance with these Acts.

4. RODENT CONTROL

(a) *Administration*

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. A full-time Rodent Operative is employed.

(b) *Rodent Destruction*

Rats, mice or rats and mice were found on 190 premises and 4,310 visits were made to destroy them.

In addition 213 premises were surveyed to ascertain if rats or mice were present. Where, as a consequence of a visit, treatment for the destruction of rats or mice was immediately commenced, such visits are not included under premises surveyed, but under visits made.

Details of the 190 infestations dealt with were as follows:—

						No. of Premises	No. of visits
Rats only	...	...	...	...	...	110	2,548
Mice only	...	...	...	...	...	65	1,142
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	15	620

Details of the various types of premises found infested were as follows:—

				Local Authority Property	Dwelling Houses	Business & Industrial Premises
No. of Premises infested by						
Rats	...	...	...	5	83	22
No. of Premises infested by						
Mice	...	...	...	2	25	38
No. of Premises infested by						
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	1	0	14
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total			...	8	108	74

Dwelling-houses are treated free, but a charge has to be made for rodent destruction at Business and Industrial Premises.

Annual contracts for the destruction of rats and mice are entered into by the Council in respect of Business and Industrial Premises. The charge made depends on the size of and conditions at the premises concerned.

(c) *Sewers*

In October, 1953, a sewer treatment was commenced in the Council's sewers which convey foul water. Baits were laid in eighty-four manholes which were selected to give a representative test over the whole town.

Subsequent inspection showed that none of the baits had been taken. This result indicates that the Council's sewers conveying foul water—of which there are about twenty-five miles—are free from rats. This is a very satisfactory result and is a consequence of modern sewers and rodent control measures undertaken in recent years.

5. INSECT PESTS

Two hundred and fifty-seven visits were made during the year to deal with ninety-seven cases of insect pests reported.

Four cases were not confirmed and five cases of woodworm and one case of cockroaches were under treatment and observation at the end of the year.

The table gives an analysis of the work carried out at the eighty-seven premises where measures of destruction were completed during the year.

Pest					No. of premises affected	No. of visits made
Ants	...	...	...	...	17	44
Flies	...	...	...	...	2	3
Beetles	...	...	...	...	4	5
Moths	...	...	...	...	2	3
Wasps	...	...	...	...	28	54
Mosquitoes	...	...	...	...	4	9
Bed Bugs	...	...	...	...	5	14
Woodworm	...	...	...	...	19	38
Miscellaneous Insects	...	...	...	...	6	28
Total					87	198

6. SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT AFTER INTIMATION TO THE OWNER OR OCCUPIER

Nuisances and defects dealt with

PREMISES

Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Galvanised dustbins provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	193
Damp houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective guttering	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dirty premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defective fire grates	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

DRAINS

Defective drains relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Choked drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	57

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, ETC.

New W.C.s fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective W.C. seats	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective sink and bath waste pipes, traps, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
New accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Accommodation cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	42

GENERAL

Premises infested by rats and/or mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	190
Insect infested premises (excluding bed bugs)	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Defective rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Paving repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous nuisances and repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Defective gullies and manholes	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

*Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the
Sanitary Inspector for 1953.*

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

S. W. WRIGHT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

District Sanitary Inspector:

D. N. FAULKNER, M.S.I.A.

Public Health Assistant and Rodent Operative:

A. FLINTOFF

Clerks:

Mrs. M. G. SHERMAN (left September, 1953)

Mrs. S. K. GREEN (commenced December, 1953)

A. A. W. CALLABY

HATFIELD SECTION

Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Areas in acres	21,945
Population (mid-year 1953, estimated by the Registrar-General)	25,920
Number of inhabited houses, 31st December, 1953 ...	7,387
Rateable value of the District, 31st December, 1953 ...	£213,356
Net product of a penny rate	£842

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Hatfield Rural District is mainly an agricultural and residential area extending from the middle of Hertfordshire to the borders of Middlesex and the northern perimeter of the Outer Metropolitan area. The ancient town of Hatfield, the administrative and social centre of the area, has several large and important industries, including the main works of the De Havilland Aircraft Company.

The Council's housing estate in Birchwood and the New Town Development in the Roe Green area made great progress during the year in addition to which widespread preliminary drainage and development schemes have been commenced extending to the Southern part of the development area.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Male	Female	Total
Number of deaths from all causes ....	...	126	127	253
Number of live births ...	Legitimate ...	192	189	381
	Illegitimate ...	8	4	12
Number of still births ...	Legitimate ...	4	2	6
	Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Number of deaths of infants	Legitimate ...	2	3	5
under one year ...	Illegitimate ...	—	—	—

INFANT MORTALITY

Five infants of under one year of age died during the year.

15 hours	Prematurity
20 hours	Congenital defects
2 months	Congenital heart defect
4 months	Congenital defects
4½ months	Meningitis and broncho pneumonia

Two of these come into the category of preventable deaths.

Once again it is gratifying to report that there were no maternal deaths during the year. This reflects the high standard of hospital and domiciliary midwifery in the area.

Comparison of Annual Rates

The following table shows the Death Rates, Birth Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1946.

Year	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
1946	9.2 (11.5)*	19.0 (19.1)*	24.6 (43.0)*
1947	8.9 (.20)	19.8 (20.5)	41.1 (41.0)
1948	7.7 (10.8)	17.9 (17.9)	49.0 (34.0)
1949	9.2 (11.7)	16.6 (16.7)	13.3 (32.0)
1950	7.7 (11.6)	14.8 (15.8)	32.2 (29.8)
1951	8.3 (12.5)	13.2 (15.5)	6.0 (29.6)
1952	8.4 (11.3)	13.1 (15.3)	12.3 (27.6)
1953	9.6 (11.4)	15.1 (15.5)	12.7 (26.8)

* The relative figures for England and Wales.

DEATHS

The slight increase in the general death rate to 9.6 per 1,000 population is due to an increase in the number of deaths reported to be due to cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis. The rate however remains well below the corresponding figure for England and Wales as a whole.

The following table is an analysis of the various causes of all deaths which have occurred or are required to be treated as having occurred in the area during the year.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	1	1	2
Tuberculosis (others)	1	—	1
Cancer	25	15	40
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis ...	19	38	57
Heart Diseases	32	29	61
Other circulatory diseases	8	11	19
Pneumonia	4	1	5
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases ...	5	4	9
Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer	6	—	6
Nephritis	—	2	2
Pregnancy, childbirth	—	1	1
Road Traffic and other Accidents	7	2	9
Suicide	1	4	5
Other defined causes	17	19	36
	126	127	253

Analysis of the deaths from cancer according to site of origin.

Respiratory tract	11
Alimentary tract and liver	14
Breast	2
Uterus	1
Others	12

Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The personal health services administered by the County Council, the local health authority for these services under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Committees of voluntary workers assist in the local arrangements at the clinics. The Medical Officer of Health of the District is also Divisional Medical Officer, and supervises these services from the Divisional Office at "The Breaks," French Horn Lane, Hatfield (Telephone: Hatfield 3054).

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

Northcotts, Hatfield	1.45–4.15 p.m.	Friday
Birchwood Avenue, Hatfield	1.45–4.15 p.m.	(alternating)
Mission Hall, Roe Green, Hatfield ...	2–4 p.m.	Thursday (1st and 3rd)
Brookmans Pk. Hotel Annexe	2.30–4.30 p.m.	Monday (1st and 3rd)
*The Cabin, Cuffley	2–4 p.m.	Monday (1st and 3rd)
Village Hall, Essendon	2–4 p.m.	Thursday (2nd and 4th)
Iron Hall, Little Heath	2–4 p.m.	Monday (2nd and 4th)
Scout House, North Mymms	2–4.30 p.m.	Thursday (1st and 3rd)
Welfare Hut, Hockey Lane Estate ...	2–4 p.m.	Wednesday (1st and 3rd)

NORTHCOTTS, HATFIELD

Ante and Post Natal Immunisation Session	9.30–11.30 a.m.	Friday (1st each month)
	9.30–11.30 a.m.	Friday (3rd and 4th)
†Ophthalmic	1.30–3.30 p.m.	Tuesday (2nd, 3rd & 4th)
†Orthoptic	2–4 p.m.	Tuesday
	9.30–12 noon	Thursday
†Speech Therapy ...	2–4.30 p.m.	Wednesday
‡Dental	9.30–12.30 p.m.	Tuesday and Wednesday
	2–5 p.m.	Tuesday (1st and 3rd) and Wednesday
†Orthodontic	a.m.	Wednesday (alternate)
Minor Ailments ...	9.30–10.15 a.m.	Tuesday (2nd and 4th)

* Ante and Post Natal cases are seen between 1.30 and 2.30 p.m.

† By appointment only.

‡ Temporarily suspended.

Reference should be made to the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer for 1953 for detailed information on the development of these services.

NURSING SERVICES

The health visiting, home nursing and domiciliary midwifery services have been well maintained throughout the district during the year. An additional nurse has been appointed in Hatfield to meet the increasing demands in domiciliary nursing in the New Town area. Voluntary helpers continue to be of great assistance to the health visitors in charge of the welfare centres by attending to non-clinical duties such as the attendance records, and the issuing of special infant foods and vitamin preparations.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The routine periodic inspection of children in the three prescribed age groups, i.e. 5 years, 11 years and final year at secondary school was carried out in all maintained schools, with additional groups at eight years and thirteen years. Attendances at the specialist sessions held at Northcotts Clinic, viz. ophthalmic, orthoptic, speech training and orthopaedic showed a slight increase over the previous year. Orthodontic sessions have continued to be held fortnightly, but owing to staff shortage it has not been possible to resume regular school dental sessions.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation against diphtheria is still strongly pressed when an infant is six months old, the protective injections being carried out either at the Welfare Clinics or by the medical practitioners. A reinforcing injection is then necessary when the child reaches the age of 5 years, and is usually done in the infant schools.

Credit is due to the parents, teachers, doctors, nurses and voluntary workers supervising the health of children in ensuring this freedom from diphtheria at a cost which is but a small part of the cost of the hospital facilities previously necessary for the isolation and treatment of the disease.

Whooping cough immunisation is growing in popularity and there is ample evidence to prove that the latest vaccine gives rise to a minimum of local reaction, and does provide either complete protection or drastically reduces the severity of this disease.

Vaccination of infants against smallpox, while no longer compulsory under the National Health Service, is strongly recommended for all infants below the age of two years, the best age in a healthy child being at 4—6 months before immunisation.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The demand upon the Home Help Service has risen steadily throughout the district mainly due to an increase in assistance given to long term illness. The local organiser, Mrs. L. Pakes, has her office at Northcotts Clinic (Telephone: Hatfield 2509).

AMBULANCE SERVICE

One ambulance is maintained at the Fire Station in Batterdale, Hatfield, which is manned during the daytime only by a crew of five fully trained ambulance men. Night cover for the district is provided by the larger station at Welwyn Garden City, and other adjoining stations when necessary.

HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

This is a voluntary service used to transport patients to and from hospitals and clinics, and is a most valuable supplement to the work of the County Ambulance Service. All requests should be directed to the Ambulance Station (Telephone: Hatfield 2222).

HERTFORDSHIRE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Clerk of the Executive Council (Mr. A. E. Short) has offices at 14 Fore Street, Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 2309), and is responsible for the provision of a general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Ignorance of the simple elementary rules of cleanliness, diet and hygiene in the daily life, especially in the upbringing of children, and unfounded superstition and dread of disease are still responsible for much ill health throughout all sections of the community. The work of educating the public in health matters goes on unceasingly through the advice given by each member of the staff of the Health Department, supplemented by special health talks and lectures with the aid of leaflets, posters, films, etc. Special emphasis is given to the clean food campaign by lectures and practical instruction of food retailers, school canteen staffs and housewives, and the need for vaccination and diphtheria immunisation.

SECTION C.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	153
Measles	...	...	...	547
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	18
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	4
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	24
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3

Measles

Notifications were high during the first six months of the year being scattered throughout all areas and uniformly mild in character.

Whooping Cough

Notifications rose during the latter half of the year, the ages of the children affected being:—

0—1 years 25. 1—3 years 44. 3—5 years 54. over 5 years 30.

During the first three years of life whooping cough, frequently associated with pneumonia and pulmonary collapse gives rise to major crippling ill health during the most important period in the child's growth and development. Active immunisation often combined with diphtheria immunisation is therefore stressed during the third or fourth month of infancy by the family practitioners and clinic medical officers. Commenced in 1952 an increasing number of children have been protected each quarter.

Scarlet Fever

The notifications relate to mild cases scattered throughout the district. No outbreak of streptococcal infections occurred during the year.

Poliomyelitis

Four cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year. The first case was notified by St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, following investigation into the illness of a woman living in Hatfield. Admitted with vague cerebral symptoms she developed weakness of the muscles of arms, legs and right side of face. Subsequently she has made good recovery with little disability remaining. Home investigation disclosed close contact with a contact of a previous case notified four weeks earlier.

Early in June a girl, aged 5, living at Welham Green, became ill with some weakness of the muscles of the right arm. She was admitted to the St. Stephen's Ward of the St. Albans City Hospital, where the diagnosis was confirmed. Full investigation failed to reveal the source of infection, and no further cases arose among contacts.

In November a boy of 5 years in the Roe Green area of Hatfield developed a typical acute attack with extensive paralysis needing the artificial respirator. His brother, aged 4 years, under close supervision developed symptoms six days later and was promptly removed to hospital. Fortunately in this case no muscle weakness developed. Several close home contacts were kept under observation, and all practical precautions taken at Newtown School where the first child had been a pupil. On follow up the severely affected boy has made a remarkable recovery. Within four months he was attending school normally with no apparent physical handicap although still under orthopaedic supervision.

Diphtheria

The one case reported was notified upon clinical diagnosis although subsequent bacteriological investigation failed to confirm the diagnosis. The patient made a rapid recovery following admission to hospital, and the examination and supervision of close contacts failed to disclose a possible origin or further cases. The notification does however serve as a timely reminder that our efforts for the fullest protection of infants and young children by immunisation must be sustained.

Food Poisoning

No outbreaks of gastro enteritis or dysentery occurred during the year. The one case reported was probably caused by infection at a roadside cafe outside the district, the circumstances being reported to the appropriate authority.

Tuberculosis

The Register of notifications has been maintained and is constantly reviewed by reference to the records held by the Chest Physicians and County Medical Officer of Health.

The Tuberculosis statistics for the year are as follows:—

	Male		Female		Total
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	
On register at 31st December, 1952	85	11	61	21	178
Removals from the register during the year	8	2	6	6	22
Added to the register during the year	21	2	24	3	50
On register at 31st December, 1953	98	11	79	18	206

The total number of tuberculous persons in the district shows a definite increase, although 27 of the 50 new names added to the register relate to transfers into the area.

The majority of these tuberculous persons coming into the district are from the London area where they have been under treatment and close observation for some time and are thus non-infective quiescent cases. It is customary for the Chest Physicians to maintain supervision for five years after all signs of activity in the disease have subsided.

The Tuberculosis Clinic at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans, undertakes the diagnosis, treatment and supervision of all cases in the district, the Chest Physician attending on Thursday for the examination of patients in this district. In each case following diagnosis home visiting is promptly arranged through the Health Visitors attached to the Clinic and a full report of the home circumstances is received by the Medical Officer of Health, who is able to assess the special needs of each case brought on to the register. The necessity for special consideration of the housing needs of tuberculous persons is fully recognised by the Housing Committee of the District Councils, and high priority is given to all such cases represented to the Committee by the Medical Officer of Health. There is close integration of the work of the Chest Clinic and the Tuberculous Health Visitors with the other social services in the district, especially Home Nursing, Health Visiting and assistance under the Home Help Scheme.

Section D.—HOUSING

The following figures for the year are provided by the Housing Manager:—

	As at 31.12.53
(a) Number of houses owned by the Council	1637
(b) Number of families housed in requisitioned accommodation	21
(c) Number of families housed in temporary huts	144
(d) Number of families housed during the year:	
(i) New accommodation (permanent)	185
(ii) Other accommodation (Hockey Lane Estate)	59
(e) Number of applicants on housing lists (including applications temporarily sus- pended owing to lack of residential qualifications)	1150

The number of new houses completed during the year almost attains the target of 200. The attractive layout of the Council's estates at Birchwood, Hatfield, Welham Green and Essendon, and the high standards of design and construction reflect great credit upon the work of the Housing Committee and the Council's Architect.

Hatfield New Town development proceeded rapidly during the year with a total of 676 houses and flats completed by the end of the year in the Roe Green area. Extensive preliminary road and drainage works were also under construction in the Southern part of the New Town area.

It was unfortunate that the Council's desire to establish a controlled caravan site at Mill Green could not be proceeded with owing to the urgent need of the Development Corporation to use this site to accommodate families displaced by New Town Development works. Little progress can therefore be claimed in meeting the problems of uncontrolled caravan sites in the vicinity of Hatfield.

The decision of the Council to commence the withdrawal of tenants from the temporary hutments at the Hockey Lane Estate was timely made, as the maintenance of the buildings will become increasingly difficult and expensive.

Considerable time is given to the assessment of special priority for rehousing on health grounds. My thanks are due to the Housing Committee and Housing Manager for the full consideration given at all times to recommendations placed before them.

Section E.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

Little change to report. The Barnet Water Company continued to provide an adequate supply. The private supply at Ponsbourne Park showed signs of failing and a full enquiry was instituted.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The further development of land at Cuffley for housing purposes was restricted, following a public enquiry, pending the provision of additional disposal facilities and the satisfactory functioning of the existing works.

The Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to report on the future drainage requirements of the area.

SEWERAGE

Work was started on the trunk sewer linking the Roe Green neighbourhood of the Hatfield New Town with the Colne Valley Trunk Sewer.

The new sewer in Wellfield Road, Hatfield, was completed.

Additional properties on the Roe Green area caused concern as to the adequacy of the pumps at Stonehouse Pumping Station and additional equipment was put on order.

The Council agreed to provision being made in the estimates for three lengths of sewer to serve Lemsford Village, Cromer Hyde and part of Stanborough.

REFUSE COLLECTION

With some improvement in the labour position the Council decided to undertake by direct labour collection in three parts of the district now collected by contract, and a further vehicle was ordered for this purpose.

REFUSE DISPOSAL (BY OTHER AUTHORITIES)

No nuisance was caused by refuse trains from North London Boroughs *en route* for the tip at Cole Green.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

There was no appreciable change in the demand on this service which continued to be operated by one machine, with some assistance from a contractor.

GULLEY EMPTYING

The Council continued the quarterly clearing of gulleys in private roads throughout the district.

FLOOD RELIEF

The Senior Sanitary Inspector worked at Yarmouth on first-aid repairs to flooded dwellings, and the District Sanitary Inspector was engaged in the collection and despatch of clothing.

BURIALS UNDER SECTION 50, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1950

Three burials were undertaken by the Council.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The building of a new public convenience in Station Road, Cuffley, was begun.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	463
Inspections under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	814
Inspections under Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	...	...	213
Inspections under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	47
Enquiries following Infectious Disease (including Food Poisoning)	...	...	...	...	...	35
Disinfections following Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	18
Inspection re Rodent Control (other than by Operative)	...	...	...	...	...	37
Disinfections for Bed Bugs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	56
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	16

HOUSING STATISTICS

Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year:—	
Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	100

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, ETC.

Inspection of Food Premises	...	...	...	...	54
„ Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	53
„ Milk Retailers	...	...	...	...	21

RODENT CONTROL

Number of infestations found	...	...	...	...	142
Number of visits for inspection and treatment	...	...	...	...	792
Number of inspections for survey purposes	...	...	...	...	80

FACTORIES ACTS

		Number in	Written
	<i>Inspections</i>	Register	Inspections Notices
Factories with mechanical power ...	93	46	—
Factories without mechanical power	4	1	—
Other premises under the Act ...	—	—	—
	97	47	—

Sanitary Conveniences:

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			By H.M. Inspector	To H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Insufficient	2	2	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	1	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
	3	3	1	—

Outworkers (*Part VIII of the Act*)

The number of outworkers was 69, all of whom were engaged in work connected with wearing apparel and there was no instance of work being carried out in unwholesome premises.

ICE-CREAM

A programme of ice-cream sampling was again carried out and during the year 42 samples were taken covering ice-cream made by seven different producers and sold from the premises or vehicles of 40 dealers. Four big manufacturers continued to sell their ices in this area but there were again changes in the smaller producers, two have discontinued and two more have replaced them. Comparison with results for 1952 is, therefore, only possible in five cases.

The samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton for bacteriological examination and were given provisional grades. The grading system is as follows:—

Provisional Grade	Time taken to reduce methylene blue
1	4½ hours or more
2	2½—4 hours
3	½—2 hours
4	0 hours

Note: Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic qualities of ice-cream and to the experimental error of the laboratory test itself, it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any given sample. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period, 50 per cent of a vendor's samples should fall into grade 1, 80 per cent into grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent into grade 3, and none into grade 4.

Summary of Results

The results have been summarised in the Table below under “Producers” and again show an improvement on the previous year. The figures for 1952 are given in brackets. Using the provisional grading shown above, it will be seen that the products of all seven manufacturers secured the suggested percentage, firstly of 50 per cent in grade 1 and secondly of 80 per cent in grades 1 and 2. For the first time since regular sampling of ice-cream commenced, there have been no failures.

Producers	Dealers	Samples	Grade			
			1	2	3	4
A	11 (7)	10 (18)	5 (7)	5 (8)	— (3)	— (—)
B	20 (15)	20 (30)	12 (17)	5 (12)	2 (1)	1 (—)
C	3 (5)	4 (11)	4 (2)	— (7)	— (2)	— (—)
D	3 (10)	5 (21)	3 (12)	2 (4)	— (5)	— (—)
E	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	—	—	—
F	1 (1)	1	1	—	—	—
G	1 (1)	1	1	—	—	—
	40 (40)	42 (81)	27 (39)	12 (31)	2 (11)	1 (—)

The popularity of lollies remains high and of the samples taken only one was unsatisfactory. This case was followed up and improvement resulted.

As most manufacturers of ice-cream sell their product over a wide area with constant supervision at all stages, the sampling by this authority is largely a check on the handling methods of the retailers. The good results are, therefore, all the more encouraging since they show that dealers have noted the gradings given to samples taken from their premises and, in some cases, have changed their supplier, at the same time using all means within their power to distribute a clean, wholesome product to the public. It is particularly gratifying to note that the efforts of the sampling officers in food hygiene education have produced such good results.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human food by the Sanitary Inspectors in the course of their inspections of the various food premises in the District.

				lbs.
Butcher's Meat	...	...	...	295
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	396
Other Tinned Foods	...	...	...	314
Other Foods	...	...	...	190
				<hr/> 1195 <hr/>

WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

*Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the
Sanitary Inspector for 1953.*

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

C. B. BORTHWICK, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., M.R.San.I.

Surveyor, Water Engineer and Sanitary Inspector:

(Left 31st March, 1953)

W. J. AVERY, M.I.Mun.E., C.R.San.I.

Surveyor, Water Engineer and Sanitary Inspector:

(Commenced 1st April, 1953)

Clerk:

A. A. W. CALLABY.

WELWYN SECTION Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	5,232
Population (mid-year 1953, as estimated by the Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	5,412
Number of inhabited houses, 31st Decem- ber, 1953	...	...	...	...	1,694
Rateable value of the District, 31st Decem- ber, 1953	...	...	...	...	£41,120
Net product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£164

Social Conditions

The district is mainly agricultural in character, the old town of Welwyn, where the Great North Road crosses the river Mimram, being the natural centre of the area. The two parishes of Ayot St. Lawrence and Ayot St. Peter remain sequestered and remote, although only 24 miles north of London, while parts of Digswell, Welwyn and Woolmer Green have developed as residential areas. The District comprises some of the best undulating wooded and agricultural country in Hertfordshire, and fortunately having escaped the urbanising influences of the inter-war years, retains its rural charm.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

			Male	Female	Total
Number of deaths from all causes	...	...	31	29	60
Number of live births	...	Legitimate	42	39	81
	...	Illegitimate	—	—	—
Number of still births	...	Legitimate	1	—	1
	...	Illegitimate	—	—	—
Number of deaths of	...	Legitimate	2	—	2
infants under one year	...	Illegitimate	—	—	—

INFANT MORTALITY

Two deaths occurred of infants under one year, the small number rendering statistical comparison of infant death rates with previous years of little significance.

Male	...	10 hours	Neonatal asphyxia
Male	...	2 weeks	Congenital heart defect

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

The following table shows the Death Rates, Birth Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1946:—

Year	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
1946	12.9 (11.5)*	15.7 (19.1)*	90.9 (43)*
1947	10.8 (12)	18.8 (20.5)	42.5 (41)
1948	9.0 (10.8)	18.1 (17.9)	10.5 (34)
1949	12.2 (11.7)	20.1 (16.7)	18.9 (32)
1950	10.2 (11.6)	19.6 (15.8)	9.8 (29.8)
1951	13.8 (12.5)	16.2 (15.5)	11.4 (29.6)
1952	7.2 (11.3)	15.8 (15.3)	35.2 (27.6)
1953	11.0 (11.4)	14.9 (15.5)	24.6 (26.8)

* The relative figures for England and Wales.

DEATHS

The following table gives an analysis of the various causes of all deaths which have occurred—or are required to be treated as having occurred, in the district during the year:—

	Males	Females	Total
Cancer, malignant disease	6	8	14
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis ...	4	4	8
Heart Diseases	9	7	16
Other circulatory diseases	3	4	7
Pneumonia	2	—	2
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases ...	2	2	4
Road Traffic Accidents	1	2	3
Other defined causes	6	2	8
	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 29	<hr/> 62

Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The personal health services throughout the district are administered by the Hertfordshire County Council. The Medical Officer of Health of the District, who is also the Divisional Medical Officer, supervises these services.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

WELWYN (THE HILL)

Infant Welfare ...	2–4 p.m.	Friday
Ante and Post Natal	9 a.m.–12 noon	Thursday (1st only)
*Dental	{ 9.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m. 2–5 p.m.	Monday

* Temporarily suspended.

AYOT ST. LAWRENCE

Infant weighing ...	2.30–4 p.m.	Wednesday (1st only; may vary)
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(Minor ailments are treated daily at 1 The Crescent (Nurse's Residence) between 8 and 9 a.m.).

NURSING SERVICES

Miss I. A. Green, 1 The Crescent, Welwyn, the home nurse/midwife, carries out the domiciliary nursing and midwifery for most of the Rural District, with nurses from Welwyn Garden City and Wheathampstead assisting in the outlying parishes.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Children in the three prescribed age groups and the eight-year-old group, were examined during the year. The school nurse regularly visits the schools to undertake the treatment of minor ailments, while the specialist diagnostic and treatment sessions at Welwyn Garden City are available as required. The school dental facilities at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn, must unfortunately remain suspended owing to staffing difficulties. The extension to the Welwyn Primary School, including classrooms and the new sanitary block, were almost completed during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

A high level of primary immunisation against diphtheria is maintained by the continued interest of all concerned in the maintenance of immunisation scheme. In addition to the children immunised by the family doctors, sessions are arranged at the schools, and at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn, for larger groups as necessary. The recent introduction of whooping cough immunisation has been well received by the majority of parents.

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

The Welwyn Old People's Club, Hon. Secretary, Mrs. G. D. Matthews, has continued to expand throughout the year.

By encouraging old people to attend the club and join in its activities, it brings new interest into the lives of many of these elderly people who tend to become lonely and neglected in their homes with few interests outside their narrow daily routine. In addition the home visiting of old people confined to their homes, does prove a source of great comfort to the disabled, especially during the winter months. The success of the club reflects great credit upon the voluntary workers, who give much time to this work.

Suitable premises were built during the year to house the Woolmer Green Old Persons' Club, which is now proving a great success there.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The local organiser for the Welwyn Rural District is Mrs. E. R. Dawson, The Lawrence Hall, Applecroft Road, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 4144). The service has been well maintained throughout the year, although at times difficulties have been experienced in finding suitable home helps within the Rural District. While it has usually been possible to cover all demands on the service, there is a need for women in each parish who would be willing to be registered for casual home help work in this essential service.

HOSPITALS

The district is served by its own hospital, the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, which has forty beds for general medical and surgical cases. Within reach are the larger hospitals at Hitchin, Hertford and St. Albans, where full diagnostic and specialist facilities are available. The majority of maternity patients needing hospital confinement are admitted to the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital, but maternity beds are available also at Hitchin and St. Albans.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Hertfordshire County Council is responsible for providing a general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. Mr. A. E. Short is the Clerk of the Council, and has offices at 14 Fore Street, Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 2309).

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Hertfordshire County has control of the Ambulance Brigade, the staff and ambulances attached to the Welwyn Garden City Station covering all calls in the Welwyn Rural District, assisted by the Hospital Car Service.

Section C.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	6
Measles	...	...	...	109
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	8

MEASLES

Notifications were high during the first six months of the year, being mostly mild cases scattered throughout the district. All practical steps were taken to limit the spread of infection in the junior schools.

Other infectious illnesses were very light during the year, the six cases of scarlet fever being all very mild in character.

POLIOMYELITIS

During May a boy aged six years was admitted to hospital with indefinite cerebral symptoms, the diagnosis of polioencephalitis being subsequently confirmed by lumbar puncture. He developed slight weakness of the muscles of the right arm, but rapidly improved with hospital care, and he has now fully recovered from the illness with no physical disability.

TUBERCULOSIS

Following a careful check of all cases on the tuberculosis registers with the records held by the Chest Physician and County Medical Officer, the statistics for the year are as follows:—

	Male		Female		Total
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	
On the register at 31st Dec., 1952	19	—	13	3	35
Removals from the register during the year	2	—	2	1	5
Added to the register during the year	1	1	6	—	8
On the register at 31st Dec., 1953	18	1	17	2	38

The Tuberculosis Clinics at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans, and the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, undertake the treatment of cases in Welwyn and the southern part of the District, while cases from the Mardley Hill/Woolmer Green area attend Letchworth Clinic. Home visiting of all cases is maintained through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors and the Home Nurses, and the special housing needs of each case are fully investigated.

Section D.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) *Public Supply*

A very small dose of chlorine has been continuously applied to all public water supplies throughout the year.

Samples taken from the various storages in turn have been submitted monthly for analysis and/or bacteriological examination. The reports have been consistently satisfactory.

Public supply is available throughout the Parish of Welwyn and the greater part of the Parish of Ayot St. Peter.

The average weekly consumption during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1954, was:—

(i) From Welwyn Garden City Waterworks (including 533,692 galls. per week supplied in bulk to Hertford R.D.C.)	...	...	2,019,404 galls.
(ii) From Welwyn Waterworks	...	...	337,446 galls.
(iii) Total from the two sources consumed in Welwyn Rural District	...	...	1,823,158 galls.

(b) *Private Supplies*

The Parish of Ayot St. Lawrence remains primarily dependent upon private supplies from wells but a contract was let during the year to Messrs. E. Thompson Ltd., of Derby, for the provision of a new concrete water tower and piped supply and work was started during May.

2. DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The number of cesspools or sewage tanks emptied by the Council's Cesspool Emptier during the year was 892 (878 loads, average .984 loads per emptying).

In addition the sewage tank at Oaklands, for which the Council is responsible was emptied 83 times (472 loads—average 5.7 loads per emptying), and in addition the undermentioned Council properties were emptied.

Woolmer Green Sewage Pumping Station (screening chamber)	...	...	2 times	3½ loads
Burnham Green Cottages (sewage tank)	...	...	13 times	12 loads
Station Road Cottages (sewage tank)	...	...	13 times	13½ loads
Danesbury Camp (sewage tank)	...	...	1 time	1 load
Digswell Camp (sewage tank)	...	...	2 times	1 load

The average daily flow at Welwyn Sewage Disposal Works was 107,101 gallons.

The lowest daily flow was 80,000 gallons on 14th November, 1952, on which day there was no rain. The highest daily flow was 206,000 gallons on the 30th April, 1953, on which day there was a rainfall of 0.68 inches.

The scheme of main sewerage for the Mardley Hill, Oaklands, Canonsfield and Danesbury area is still under consideration, and it is proposed that connections will be made with the main trunk sewer already under construction down the Mimram Valley.

3. RAINFALL

The total rainfall recorded at Welwyn Sewage Disposal Works during the year was 21.995 inches.

The average annual rainfall for the five years 1949-1953 was 26.229 inches.

During 1953 there was a measurable fall of rain on 126 separate days, the heaviest fall being 0.835 inches on the 12th October, 1953. The wettest month was April, with 2.485 inches of rain and the driest month was December with 0.5 inches of rain.

4. HOUSE REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION

The house-to-house collection of house refuse and salvage continued to be made weekly but in November the Council decided that the collection and sale of salvage was uneconomic and decided to discontinue this service.

The quantity of salvage of various types which was sold during the year was 23 tons 3 cwts. 1 qr. 23 lbs. and the payment received for this was £56 8s. 10d.

The grand total of salvage disposed of since a separate collection of salvage was started in March, 1940, is 1,230 tons 14 cwts. 12 qr. 8 lbs. and this has been sold for £5,294 12s. 6d.

5. SANITARY INSPECTIONS AND VISITS FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES

Premises visited	...	...	...	41
Number of visits	...	...	...	37

The purpose of these visits was as follows:—

	Premises	Visits
Housing defects	11	7
Cesspools and drains	9	9
Restaurants	1	1
Food	5	5
Disinfections following infectious disease	8	8
Bakehouses	5	5
Dirty Premises	2	2
	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 37

6. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS—PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 269

Eight licences to station caravans on various sites were operative during the year. It is the Council's custom to issue such licences for twelve months at a time only.

7. HOUSING

(i) *New Houses.* Twenty-five new houses were completed and one additional unit of accommodation provided in other ways by private enterprise; seventy-five houses were completed by the Council making a total of 101 additional separate dwellings during the year.

(ii) *Council's Housing Programme.* During the year contracts for the erection of forty-eight houses were made and at the close of the year twenty-two houses were under construction. A new housing site at London Road, Welwyn, was acquired, and site works commenced by direct labour.

(iii) *Erection of Houses by Private Enterprise.* During the year the Council issued twenty-two building licences for the erection of dwellings by private persons, one of which was subsequently returned.

(iv) *Requisitioned Property.* At the close of the year the Council had no dwellings under requisition, the two remaining having been de-requisitioned in December.

(v) *Hutted Camps.* Six families are still housed in ex-service huts at Digswell. Arrangements were put in hand to remove the huts at Danesbury Park.

8. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

(a) Food as detailed below was inspected and certified unfit for human consumption and either destroyed, disposed of as pig food or returned to the suppliers for salvage. Certificates were issued in all cases to the persons by whom the food was held at the time of inspection, in accordance with the emergency arrangements agreed with the Ministry of Food and Ministry of Health.

(i) *Food in tins or other containers*

Description	No. of Containers	Weight		
		cwts.	lbs.	ozs.
Meat	3		51	12
Fish, miscellaneous	2		18	0
	5		69	12

9. RODENT CONTROL AND PEST DESTRUCTION

Participation in the Joint Scheme continued as in the previous year.

The scheme has worked smoothly and satisfactorily throughout the year and the following table gives a record of work done in Welwyn Rural District during the year:—

Sewers	Number of Hours worked				Total
	Refuse Tips, etc.	Private Dwellings	Business Dwellings	Agricultural Land	
17¾	106¾	111¾	12¼	43¾	298¼

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